U.S. Export Administration Regulation. The indictment refers to two unnamed Government of India officials as co-conspirators.

(c) It is ascertained from the concerned Indian agencies that these items had been obtained through an open tender. We have requested the US side to provide full information to enable us to look into the allegations.

University of SAARC Countries

4622. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to set up University of SAARC countries in India, is under consideration of Government.

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken a view regarding funding, faculty and admissions in the University; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes. An Agreement to establish South Asia University in India was signed by all the member countries during the 14th SAARC Summit in New Delhi on April 4, 2007. An Intergovernmental Steering Committee is to consider, *inter-alia*, matters relating to the Charter, by-laws, rules and regulations, curriculum development, business plan, infrastructure development, selection of faculty members and other issues. India will host the first meeting of the Inter-governmental Steering Committee on May 29-30, 2007.

Opposition to Indo-Iran Pipeline

4623. SHRI DEVDAS APTE:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government have opposed the Indo-Iran Pipeline in lieu of the US sanctions against Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of India agrees on the US warning against the Indo-Iran Pipeline; and

(d) if so, what steps Government would take to save the energy needs of the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) U.S. Energy Secretary, Samuel Bodman, during his visit to India on March 21-23, 2007, in talks with reporters was quoted as having said: "There has been conversation between India and other nations and Iran about finding ways of developing oil and gas assets and if that is allowed to go forward, in our judgement, this will contribute to development of nuclear weapons."

(c) and (d) Government of India's energy policy flows from our own assessments and requirements. India is pursuing several energy options and will continue to take any measures it deems necessary based on its own national interest.

Alternative route to Mount Kailash

4624. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been sent to China seeking an alternate route to Mount Kailash-Mansarover *via* Ladakh;

(b) if so, when it was sent and at what level it is being considered;

(c) whether this route would make the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash comparatively easier and ensure cost-effectiveness; and time-effectiveness; and